

TAX REVISION IS TEMPORARY

Say Revision Made Hasty
to Effect Present
Relief

By A. O. HALWARD.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25.—Taxation systems and plans are the chief topic of general discussion in Congress these days.

The whole subject of taxation has been thrown open by the administration of Senators Penrose and Smoot that the present tax revision is only temporary, being pushed now for the purpose of settling the question of some of the more important war taxes and freeing business from the worst of its existing tax burdens. They announce that soon a general revision of the taxation system of the country must be undertaken and a more scientific plan of taxation substituted for the catch-as-catch-can system in operation.

All tax theorists of business believe now that there shall be no abandonment of the general plan of imposing taxes on incomes and on inheritances. These taxes seem certain to stay, but the systems under which they shall be imposed and the rates will be the subject for debate in Congress until a plan better than that now in operation is adopted.

Representatives of new schools of thought in tax matters are arising in Congress. For the most part they present old systems of taxation clothed in new details. Senator Smoot and Representative Hatch each of new ideas are urging substitution of a general sales tax for the multitude of small taxes now levied. They claim that a 1 per cent sales tax, avoiding many of the turnover in sales, will produce \$1,000,000,000. The tax can be adjusted easily to produce necessary revenue.

Representative Oscar E. Keller of Missouri, leading a number of western representatives, is pressing for a land values tax. At a small rate, but easily adjustable, it can be made to yield, he claims, sufficient revenues to meet the government needs, and worrisome indiscriminate taxation can be done away with.

Other members of Congress, who

have seen many changes in tax systems declare that, with the changing sentiment in the country, taxation methods, there will come some combination scheme of a sales tax and a land value tax that will wipe out the present system of hodge-podge taxes and base a federal internal revenue tax system on incomes, inheritances, general sales and land values.

The sales tax has grown in congressional favor rapidly during recent months. It is held in abeyance now for imposition in the event a soldier cash bonus, with its \$1,500,000,000 demands, is authorized by Congress at the next session. Once it is adopted as a part of the tax system it will remain permanently in the general prediction. After payment of the soldier bonus its revenues will be used for ordinary expenses of the government.

The land values tax has not so many advocates at the present time, but it is being considered and is in the front in all tax discussions especially when western men participate. They are advocating it for the double purpose of freeing themselves from the many small taxes and to force monopolistic land owners to pay huge taxes, or to throw their holdings on the market and sell them off at a loss. They contend by the great lumber companies, by the oil and other mining

companies, and by the hydro-electric water power companies, all willing to future development of the country for exploitation by the owners.

These vast tracts of unimproved lands are taxed but little by the states, and this has aroused resentment by the state taxpayers. It is said, who claim that they must pay the cost of the developments for who can afford to wait until improvements march up to their property, when they will reap a wonder-

ful harvest on their investment. If federal taxes on such land values will have the effect, it is believed, of forcing some of these vast

STRAND Last Times Today

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holdings from their owners and through their development in small holdings enrich both state and nation.

If federal taxes on such land val-

ues will have the effect, it is im-

plied, of forcing some of these vast

lands to be sold.

These vast tracts of unimproved

lands are taxed but little by the

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